A SHORT COLLECTION OF THE Most Remarkable Passages from the originall to the dissolution OF THE VIRGINIA COMPANY.

LONDON,

Prined by *Richard Cotes* for *Edward Husband*, at the *Golden Dragon* in *Fleetstreet*, 1651.

To the honorable Company of the Adventurers for the *Sommer* (*aliàs Bermudas*) *Islands.*

My Lords and Gentlemen,

HAving received this following Collection some yeares since, by the appointment of Mr. *W. Woodnoth* deceased, without further directions then what might be gathered from the Postscript and purpose of the whole Relation; I remember the Authour Mr. *Arthur Woodnoth* to have been a worthy member, and sometimes Deputy of this Company, and an ancient Adventurer and diligent prosecutor of the best ends for the advancement of the *Virginia* Plantation. I conceive his purpose might be to take a fit-

ting time for reviving the originall rights of this Plantation, and thereby to encourage this Company in their beſt endeavours, by ſetting forth the honour and conſtant goodneſſe of Sir *John Danvers* likely to give the greateſt aſſiſtance therein And conſidering the reſpect and gratefulneſſe of moſt of the members and beſt intereſſed perſons of this Company, in chooſing that worthy perſon Sir *John Danvers* your Governour, and finding his conſtant endeavours to anſwer the greateſt of your expectations, in preſerving your juſt rights and priviledges; I judge it now a fit time to publiſh the ſame; and ſhall forbear to ſay more of his worth, ſo fully charactered throughout this Diſcourſe.

A. P.

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An Account and Obſervation taken by *A. W.* a true friend and Servant to Sir *Iohn Danvers*, and the Parliament-intereſt.

Containing a great part of his more Publick Tranſactions, concerning the Plantation of *VIRGINIA*, &c.

AFter ſome years ſpent at ſeverall times in travell beyond the ſeas, he was ſhortly after his return into *England*, ſworne Servant to P. *Henry*, of his Privy-chamber in ordinary, remaining under the countenance of his favour till hee died. But the light of the Court ſeeming to him much obſcured after the ſetting of that bright ſtar, and ſome reliſh taken of the uncertainty of Court-favour towards any that ſhould ſhew themſelves cordiall for Publick good (which was alwaies his aim) in Parliament, or other-where; hee was unwilling to fixe himſelf in any particular dependence upon the Court: all that he ſought was ſome juſt recommendation from this King, who upon that occaſion told him, that hee would value him with the beſt of his Servants of his condition, for the love he knew his brother bore to him; whereunto

Sir *J. Danvers* answered, if was so great a favour, as that he would ask no better then to be continued in his esteem, which he would value as much as if hee had preferred him to some great office or place in his service.

And further considering the proceedings of K. and Court, where the ordinary transactions by men of all conditions were mostly directed towards the advancement of absolute power and tyranny, he was lesse frequent in Court, and renewed his former care and diligence, spending much time in advancing the honorable designs for the Plantation of *Virginia*.

The Continent of *Virginia* discovered in the time of Q. *Elizabeth* (who gave it that name) was in the beginning of K. *James* his reign much advanced in reputation, and the advantages promised thereby seemed then worthy the best consideration how to make it a Plantation for the *English*: Whereupon many worthy Patriots, Lords, Knights, Gentlemen, Merchants, and others held consultation, which produced a large subscription of Adventurers of all qualities in severall proportions, to the value of 200000. *l.* or thereabouts. By which time a Patent was procured with great priviledges and immunities for the Adventurers, as establishing and impowering a Councell of State, as well as a generall Company, whereby the whole affairs of that Plantation should in perpetuity bee governed; when a great and forward confidence was cast upon Sir *Thomas Smith*, Governour of the *East-India*, and divers other Companies in *London*; who because he was imprisoned in the Tower, after the Earl of *Essex* had rested at his house (being Sheriffe at that time his Lordship went to appeal to the Citizens of *London*, the day of his last restraint) was thought a better Patriot then afterwards approved. But he so far prevailed, or some others in his behalfe, that he was constituted the first Governour of that Company, but under the title of Treasurer, whereby hee had the chief power and purse of the Company.

And about this time one Sir *Thomas Gates*, reputed a worthy, discreet, and experienced Soldier, was sent as Governour into *Virginia*, which drew on a great increase of people voyaging thither, and planting there, who were to have shipping and

and provisions sent them by the said Treasurer and Company; which accordingly was ordered, and in some reasonable manner in appearance performed for the space of three years, or thereabouts, the time limited for the Government of the said Sir *Thomas Gates*.

But in short time the reputation of this undertaking grew so high, and the government of *Virginia* was thought so considerable, as it must bee confirmed upon some Peere of the Realm, and the *L. de la Warr* was nominated thereunto, and went Governour by Patent from the Company for three years. But through the failing of industry upon the place, and of supplies of sweet victualls, and other accommodations by shipping from *England*, and the sicklinesse the Lord Governour had contracted there, hee came home before his time was expired. When Sir *Thomas Smith* used means by his Courtship rather to blame the unhealthfulnesse of that Countrey, then to have any fault imposed upon the undertakers, for want of sending supplies in due time to *Virginia*.

Nevertheless, *Henry* Earl of *Southampton*, whose goodnesse equalled his honour, having long understood as well by the generall notions hee had of the place, as by persons particularly imployed in such discovery, that it was no lesse healthfull then fruitfull, if rightly ordered by some industrious person, his Lordship procured Sir *Thomas Dale* a worthy and experienced Souldier in the Low-countreys to be sent thither as Governour, by whose judicious observation and industry they might be assured of the whole state and condition of the Countrey and People on that Plantation. And hee by the ability of his body as well as mind, through much indurance, by want in the miscarriage of supplies, brought home, as a great instance of his labours and value of the Countrey, at least sixteen severall sorts of staple commodities, to be raised and propagated in this Plantation.

And now the best affected of this Nation having found the pulse of the Court beating wholly in observance of the *Spanish* Counsells and ends, by interrupting at home, and barring our trade to the *W. Indies*, laid hold on this expectation

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of *Virginia*, as a providence cast before them of double advantage, by means whereof those also that would avoid Court dependence, might most honourably imploy themselves in attending the meetings of that Company and Councell; whilst in short time some other new discoveries were made by the adventures and charge of the said Company, as that of the *Bermudas*, which by reason of its naturall strength, and convenient scituation gave additionall encouragement, and seemed to promise security for warlike shipping and navigation throughout the *English* Plantations.

Frequent consultations were now had of these affairs in the Assemblies of that Councell and Company, and otherwise amongst those who were most distasted with the proceedings of the Court, and stood best affected to Religion and Liberty; which occasioned that passionate speech of K. *James*, swearing, *The Virginia Company was a seminary for a seditious Parliament*, which caused a more close and considerate proceeding in those affairs. But the meetings authorized by several Patents granted under the great Seal did exclude or divert the Prerogative-destructive intrusion; whilst a number of great Lords and some others remained sedulous and united towards the right ends declared.

And by this time it appeared palpably that encouragements were given on all hands to disturb and interrupt the regular and forward proceedings of the Company, and the care and circumspection of the Councell in like manner made burdensome and prejudiciall to many worthy persons in particular. When also in a first place the Plantation of *New England*, though at first under the patent and limitation of *Virginia*; was after much dispute and prosecution by Sir *Ferdinando Gorges* then Governour of *Plimmouth*, and of the Court Party, by a new Patent under the specious title of the *Western Plantation* divided from the first undertaking, and had greater complyance with the King and Court-interest, the more to divide the strength, and weaken the power of the Councell and Company of *Virginia*, residing in and about *London*. Which nevertheless the wisdome of God hath made in these dayes to appear a blessing upon that undertaking. Other interrupti-

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ons were from turbulent persons, whose weakest pretentions against the Company or eminent persons therein concerned, were winged with powerfull recommendation from Court, but not so considerable yet, as to hinder the sedulity of those worthy persons and Parriots; who still consulting the wayes and means for the wished ends, and finding Sir *Thomas Smith* involved with the Court and *Spanish* party, it was as soon suspected that by his super-intendence as President and Governour, he had willingly omitted the care and vigilance which should have forwarded and secured the supplies; the want whereof had distressed and discouraged the chief undertaking. Nor was there any such account appearing, but that much money received was unaccounted for; but managed in such an intricate or delusive way as could not well be charged on the Treasurer, nor directly on any other responsable person.

At private meetings of the E. of *Southampton*, Sir *Edwin Sandys*, Sir *John Danvers*, &c. severall observations and proposalls occasioned this result, that nothing would serve to redeem the honour and reputation of the design for *Virginia*, and re-advance the prosperity thereof, so much as an entire and reall account published, the better to discover former negligences or corruptions, and to beget a better care for the future. And hereupon at a great and generall *Quarter-Court*, Sir *Edwin Sandys*, Sir *John Danvers*, Mr. *J. Wroth*, Mr. *Abbots*, afterwards Sir *Maurice Abbots*, and Mr. *Abdey* afterwards Alderman, were five Auditors authorized to draw on all manner of accounts, for satisfaction of the world as wel as the Company.

Against any good effect by such Audit much endeavour and backwardnesse appeared in all kind of Accountants, but most in Sir *Thomas Smith*'s Creatures or dependents; whereby great difficulty, or at least dilatorinesse was found, which Sir *M. Abbots*, and Alderman *Abdey* took for occasion to tell the rest, that they being Merchants, their necessary businesse would not afford them time for a work of such unhopefull an issue, by reason of the various intricacies of Accounts, and of such uncertain voyages as those for Plantations. They desiring and forcing to be excused, left the whole care and pains to

Sir E. *Sandys*, Sir *John Danvers*, and Mr. *Wroth*, who finding a multiplication of difficulties and interruptions from day to day, were forced after two or three moneths time; first, to suppolitate a new and direct method for accounting for the future, which in a book of Account exposed weekly at every Court on the Table, might the better satisfie; whilst a larger time was taken to rake up the more ancient obstruction or concealment. In which pursuit Sir E. *Sandys*, Sir *J. Danvers*, and most times Mr. *J. Wroth* were together five dayes of the week, from between nine and ten of the clock in the morning, till five or six in the evening, for the space of nine moneths; not without retryving and possibility of gaining in a very considerable sum, to be charged on Sir *Th. Smith*, as was generally beleeved.

Mean while much industry was used by Bed-chamber-men, and other super-intendent great persons to beget a disrelish in K. *James* against the proceedings of the *Virginia* Company, upon the score that he was to uphold Sir *Thomas Smith*'s honour and reputation, so prevalent in Companies, and amongst the most wealthy Citizens, to procure him loans for supplying his most necessary occasions: which by meanes of Sir *John Danvers* familiar correspondence with some of the Bed-chamber, that did serve P. *Henry*, was prevented, by inculcating the consideration of palpable injustice, in obstructing the power granted to the Company: as others in like manner were carefull, whereby the businesse of *Virginia* forced (as it were) a passage through opposition, both forain and domestick; for the *Spanish* Ambassador (whose power was great in the Court Counsells) was very sedulous, and spared no money to hinder the same.

The good hope of this Plantation bringing on the ancient Adventurers, and their moneys, encouraged also the prosecution and attaining the grant of a Lottery over all *England*, which seconded with respective private Letters to the generous and well affected persons in every County, caused great sums of money to be brought in, and imployed for the Plantation, which brought on the casting out Sir *Tho. Smith*, and establishing Sir *Ed. Sandys* Treasurer and Governour of the

the Company, by whoſe great care and abilities *Virginia's* increaſe and plenty ſeemed a very hopeful addition to the dominion of *England*.

Mean-whiles the care and circumſpection of the now Governour drew all ſorts of experienced perſons of other Nations as Minerall men from *Germany*, Vignerons from *France*, &c. to preſent themſelves, who were in numbers entertained to aſſiſt the induſtry of the Planters, which with many other concurrent circumſtances of encouragement appeared in one years time advantagious to the deſign beyond expectation, as by Sir E. *Sandys* account of his Tranſactions was made manifeſt unto hundreds of Lords and Gentlemen aſſembled at their Quarter Court in *Eaſter* term, the time for the new election of the Treaſurer or Governour. At which time when the Court prepared to make a new election, moſt intending to chooſe Sir *Edwin Sandys* for another year, Mr. *Robert Kirkham* one of the Clerks of the Signet, with Mr. Alderman *Hammerſley*, preſented themſelves as Meſſengers from K. *James*, congratulating the hopefull progreſſe of the *Virginia* Plantation, but withall profeſſing his Majeſties great care, where ſo many of his ſubjects were concerned. And therefore the Countrey being ſo remote, and wherein the greateſt Merchants might be moſt knowing through their experience and intereſt, his Majeſty recommended ſix perſons, whereof he expected one ſhould be that day choſen their Governour; which ſtruck a ſilence into the whole Court for a time, but in concluſion declared (as beleeved) by *Will.* E. of *Pembrooke*, *Henry* E. of *Southampton*, and others, to bee againſt the Companies juſt freedome of election granted by Letters Patents, and cauſed by ſome miſ-information given the King, whereof they would ſpeak with him. In the mean time an order was entred for continuance of that Quarter Court on a day the week after.

The ſame Court again aſſembled, and thoſe Lords deſired a preparatve meeting of the Councell for *Virginia*, where it was freely recounted, how K. *James* remained obſtinately excepting againſt the perſon of Sir *Edwin Sandys*, declaring him his greateſt enemy, and that hee could hardly think well

of whomsoever was his friend, and all this in a furious passion returning no other answer, but *Choose the Devill, if you will, but not* Sir Edwin Sandys.

Hereupon the generality of the Company being in the height of discontent, and the Lords and others of the more timorous nature in trouble how to proceed in the presence of a very considerable Assembly in a cause so lately raised to such expectation, which now they could not but account lost by this discouragement, Sir *John Danvers* entreated some private conference with the E. of *Southampton*, a most cordiall stickler for this Plantation, and asked, whether his Lordship would be pleased to own the place, if the Company chose him Treasurer, whilst they should not fail by all means to free him from the pains and trouble by nominating such a Deputy as would please his Lordship and the whole Company, in prosecuting still those wayes which might give satisfaction and encouragement to the undertakers. That most Noble Lords answer was, I know the King will be angry at it, but so the expectation of this pious and glorious work may be encouraged, let them doe with me what they please. And accordingly the councel & Company in a fair way chose the Earle Treasurer, and Sir *E. Sandys* Deputy, which such other co-incident officers for propagating the work intended, as was generally acceptable and applauded by all good men.

The publick asserting of those rights and immunities granted under the great Seal of *England*, much raised the spirits, and increased the numbers of those that made preparation for this Plantation; for within the following yeer there were above fifty Patents granted under the Seal of the Company to severall persons, who were to have lands set out and alotted unto them, proportionable to the numbers of people they engaged to transplant from *England*; the least number so contracted for in any one Patent was a hundred, some 5 hundred, some a thousand, and divers in greater proportions, and these patentees were not the meanest in honor, vertue and godlines.

And now was likewise so great a complyance in this pious work, and moneys came in so plentifully from the Lottery, and by payment of Arrears upon former subscriptions, as seemed

med almoſt to promiſe as well as to invite a great part of the Nation to withdraw themſelves from an oppreſſing unto a more free government eſtabliſhing in *Virginia*, whither great ſtore of ſhipping was engaged and even in readineſſe; when in the concluſion of a broken Parliament by K. *James*, both the E. of *Southampton* and Sir *Edwin Sandys* were committed cloſe Priſoners, upon private aſſumed ſuggeſtions, which ſtruck ſome terrour into moſt undertakers for *Virginia*. Nor did the ſhipping and Paſſengers know which way to derive thoſe Orders, Warrants, and Allowances which were many ways neceſſary and pertinent for ſetting forward of their voyages. The complaints and apprehenſions thereupon coming to the place where the Courts and Regiſtries were kept (the houſe of Mr. *Farrars* Merchant in St. *Sythe-lane*, *London*.) much bewailing and conſultation was there had. Where after conſideration of the power granted to the Company: the two *Farrars* Brothers by their diſcretion and affection aſſiſting much herein) it was reſolved, That the Company might and ſhould proceed, as if their Governour and Deputy were hindred by ſickneſſe, or other diverſion, and finding the whole proceeding like to be more advantaged if Sir *John Danvers* would ſhew himſelfe to keep and governe the Courts, a number went with Mr. *Nicholas Farrar* home to his houſe, imploring his aſſiſtance, which (though knowing, as my Lord of *Southampton* ſaid, the King would not be pleaſed therewith) he readily undertook, to the great ſatisfaction of many the Adventurers and Planters. In which time of his tranſaction, which was about a moneth or three weeks, there were fraighted and went out from *London* 25 ſail of conſiderable ſhipping and numbers of Paſſengers for *Virginia*, beſides others about the ſame time from the *Weſtern* ports.

The E. of *Southampton*, and Sir *Ed. Sandys* were by this time releaſed, and nothing appearing againſt them, rejoiced the more, to find the diſpatch of the ſhipping, &c. ſo well over. And though by a contrived ſudden complaint in Parliament, againſt the Lotteries for *Virginia*, as pernicious to the countries where they were introduced, with ſeconding informations ſuggeſted; the Lotteries were voted down, and the greateſt

ſtream for ſupplies of money now ſtopt, yet conſultation and endeavours gave new hope of benefit other ways, which more then probably might ſtill advance the Plantation, wherein many parties had their aims and expectation.

Whilſt theſe forementioned paſſages were in hand, the Court and *Spaniſh* faction failed not to give aſſiſtance and encouragement to all thoſe (and they were very many) that ſtrained by any way or means to divert or interrupt the affaires under the care of this Councell and Company. Which drew on their conſideration for the diſplacing of Sir *Thomas Smith*, and conſtituting of Sir *Edwin Sandys* Governour of the *Bermudas* or Summer-Ilands Company, and Plantation, which was an appendant of *Virginia*, the labour and ſafety of both being the ſame, and by the members thought fit to be truſted in one way, and in hands and counſells beſt approved. Sir *Ed. Sandys* ſetling in that government, was incountred with much information of neglect or infidelity committed therein, by Sir *Thomas Smith*, the Iſland wholly wanting ammunition to maintain it againſt an enemy: which the place being of that importance, ſeemed much to ſtartle the undertakers, the moſt whereof were the principall Earls, Lords, and Gentlemen of beſt thoughts and affection in the *Virginia* Company, who as they were particularly intereſſed by purchaſe, ſo had they a ſpeciall care of the Caſtles, Fortreſſes and harbour there, capable to preſerve and maintain a Fleet of ſhips, fit to ſuccour and protect *Virginia*, and other *American* Plantations in expectation to be added thereunto, from the amplitude of a later Patent for comprehending a number of other Iſlands as well as the *Bermudas*, within the limitation of the *Virginia* Plantation.

And now it was advertiſed from the E. of *Somerſet*, the then Favourite and Favourer of the *Engliſh* rights, that he underſtood by confident intelligence, that the *Spaniards* had a deſign about a certain time of that yeer to attempt the ſeizing of that Iſland, becauſe it was wholly unprovided of powder and ammunition, & apprehended as at this time without viſible poſſibility of preſent ſupplies. But it pleaſed God through the neglective way of Sir *Tho. Smith* the government of the Iſland

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was disposed into the hands of one *More*, who upon sight of two *Spanish* Vessells of good burden approaching towards the chief Castle at the entrance of the Port, got powder and shot for the charging only of two peeces of Artillery, which levelled and discharged neer at once upon those ships. The Commander thinking himself betrayed, because he was assured hee should find no manner of ammunition, weighs anchor, and sets sail away from thence, as the first return of shipping from the *Bermudas* made cleer unto the Company, &c.

This happy escape aggravating the omission or corruption of Sir *Tho. Smith*, seemed to revive and give a new vigour to the Partners in this Plantation, and there being nothing of more speedy advantage on the place for return to the owners and adventurers then the planting and transporting of Tobacco (whilst it might be imported, as from *Virginia* for 5 *per cent.* for their custome) great store thereof was made and preparing, when upon some tender of a large rent for the sole sale of Tobacco, an order of the Councell Bord did impose payment of the highest custome, as to thirty or forty in the hundred upon the *Bermudas* Tobacco, proportionably with all other, notwithstanding the exemption within their Patent: which, with other things, much intrenching upon the rights and priviledges of the Adventurers, gave occasion of a through consultation of the Earls, Lords, Gentlemen and Merchants concerned, and in conclusion caused an addresse of themselves personally, desiring audience of K. *James*, which being attained, and prosecuted by the society of the Earles of *Pembrooke*, *Southampton*, and others, the Lord *Cavendish* being appointed to expresse the nature of complaint and appeale to the King, his Lordship had no sooner entred into the matter, but that his Majesty began to shew much discontent, and with much adoe was drawn to any patience, which gave much discouragement in the case, and prevented the declaring of the most just cause of importunity appointed to my Lord *Cavendish*; when Sir *John Danvers* fell on his knee, and besought the King to hear him, as the first time hee ever had the honour to speak unto his Majesty in a serious businesse: and having leave, he stoutly inculcated that point of justice, which could not be denyed,

denyed, at which the King flang away in greater paſſion; inſomuch that the Prince who is now King, drew Sir *J. Danvers* aſide, as in favor to him, deſiring he would urge the King no further, and undertook to ſpeak with Sir *J. Danvers*, and accordingly to move the King at ſome other time, which was unperformed, though more then once deſired by Sir *J. Danvers*.

According to which courſe or vogue of State, ſome Lords and others, though Members of the ſame Company, took up ſpecioully the corrupt intereſt of thoſe that had been formerly conſtituted and imployed in places & affairs of truſt belonging to theſe Plantations, as ſome of the former Governours ſent in time of Sir *Thomas Smiths* Government, either to *Virginia* or the *Bermudas*, &c. who being concurrently obnoxious in point of Account, were as firmly ſupported by him and his friends, with the Spanniolized faction of the Councell Bord, and the Kings Bed-chamber. Which proceedings excited the better and more conſtant faithfull party to the more carefull and laborious perſeverance, when the proſpering of the undertaking towards ſo great an addition of Dominion, was from time to time interrupted, as about this time by *Quæres* to the number of two or three and thirty from the Councell Bord, by the Kings ſpeciall appointment, pretending great care that ſuch numbers of his ſubjects gone to the Plantations, might bee circumſtantially provided for in their laws, freedomes, &c. Theſe *Quæres* ſent on the Saturday were to bee ſatisfied the Tueſday following. at ſitting of the Councell in the afternoon. The Lord *Cavendiſh*, Sir *Edwin Sandys*, Sir *John Danvers* and Mr. *Nicholas Farrar* meeting by appointment of the Company, with power to conſider and preſent what they ſhould find pertinent therein, found a hard taske to anſwer ſo many particulars in ſo ſhort time. Yet finding that the truths couched or exemplified in the Leiger-books of the Company would ſatisfie the *Quæres* and objections thereupon, Mr. *Farrar* deſired the buſineſſe and ſearch might be divided into 4 parts, wherein hee would take that of greateſt labour: which was concluded by the other three, and accordingly brought together the Tueſday morning, and preſented to the Councell Bord in the afternoon, and gave the Lords a moſt unexpected ſatisfaction,

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as was confeſſed. When by way of congratulation it was propoſed, that now there was ſo great numbers and Trade like to follow in that Plantation, ſome care might be taken for their ſafety by ſpecial fortifications, & an account thereof made to the King. Whereupon it was ordered at the Bord, that *William* Earl of *Pembrooke*, *Southampton* and other Lords of the Councell and Company for *Virginia*, ſhould make enquiry and acquaint his Majeſty of what was, and would be done in that point, for preſervation of the lives of his ſubjects againſt enemies, either Natives of *Virginia*, or others, ſince hee had vowed, that if he had not ſatisfaction therein, he would think himſelf bound to take the whole government and the appointing of Governours into his own hands. Which occaſioned the calling together of a Councell for *Virginia* of all that were neer, who as they cleerly ſaw the deſperate malignity of the Secret-Court-Spaniſh party, ſo often appearing in perſecution of this Plantation; ſo had they a great apprehenſion the King could not be eaſily ſatisfied, ſince the Companies treaſure was exhauſted, and there was little hopes of more contribution or Adventurers, whilſt they lay under ſuch diſcouragement. Sir *John Danvers* remembring ſome notion of hope, and looking over the books of Letters from *Virginia*, hee obſerved that throughout the year paſt there was never leſſe then 17 ſaile of ſhipping in *James* River, the heart of the Plantation, inferring, that if the Kings fairer complyance ſhould keep the Company in the ſame encouragement, the ſtrength of ſo many floting Forts in that flat ſcituation, would be equivalent to, if not exceeding any poſſible ſpeedy fortification; which the E. of *Pembrooke*, &c. conceived fully ſufficient to ſatisfie the King, if he had not an inveterate diſaffection to the work: and this proved an anſwer appearingly well received by the King.

Now had the Company a little leaſure from the ſtormes or inquiſition of the Councell Bord, whilſt nevertheleſſe particular perſons of all ranks, and divers under the countenance of thoſe diſaffected Lords & others, were faln from the true ſenſe and juſtice of the work chiefly intended. But it was not long before Sir *Lionel Cranfield*, preſently after E. of *Middleſex*, about the time of his approaching to be L. Treaſurer, ſeemed ſeriouſly to renue his former profeſſed contemplation of, & affection to the work of this Plantation, with many reaſons and inſtances of his well-wiſhing, and

at laſt made this ſpecious overture. It is a misfortune (ſaies he) not to be avoided, that whilſt the Plantations in their preſent infancy have their whole ſubſiſtence by the trade of tobacco, the Kings neceſſities caſting him upon all, and any ways for advancement of his revenue, a tender is made of more then 20000. *l. per annum*, for the whole importing and ſale thereof, and when the *Virginia* or Summer-Iſlands Company offer to plead their freedom in the caſe, the Lawyers ſay, it is a poiſonous drug which the King might juſtifie to baniſh or burn, and not to be accounted as a ſtaple or nationall commodity, in which caſe it was in the Kings power to doe his pleaſure in any ſort concerning the ſame; But to comply for the advantage of the Plantation, the Company might, and ſhould if they pleaſed, have the ſole importation to them and in their managing, for 20000. *l. per ann.* And to make his zeale and care appeare for the proſperity of this great and pious work, he would put the Company into a way, whereby 200000. *l.* more ſhould bee gained over and above the Rent, to recompenſe their want of ſupplies by the Lottery, or by the freedome of their owne Tobacco from the neceſſitated height of cuſtome. And further declares, that their providing for the Kings intereſt in ſo fixed a rent, would make him every way capable and aſſiſtant to all their future endeavours; which by ſome collaterall means bending a great part of the moſt diligent adventurers of the Company to comply with this Propoſition (ſome conceiving they ſhould find a better glyde in the buſineſſe, others to have ſome advantagious imployment in the managing of the Tobacco farme, and theſe conſiderations by way of reſult promoted by ſeverall ſtirring ſpirits on *Middleſex* his grounds) the contract ſeemed concluded, and the managing parts deſigned to ſpecial perſons. When aſſoon almoſt it was apparent that nothing of good was intended towards the Company, for now many baſe & falſe ſuggeſtions were raiſed againſt the E. of *Southampt.* Sir E. *Sandys*, and others, not a little aggravating in the minds of many ingenuous perſons, who had no beleef in ſuch looſening of legal intereſt by Patent, the juſt ground of the whole undertaking, which with many lurking and diſtributed inventions diverted and broke the contract, whilſt the ſubtilty of *Cranfield* advanced the ſame farm with avowed neglect of the Company and perſons adhering thereunto. And when the greateſt diſturbance

bance on this and other occaſions had wrought the members of this Company into eminent diſtraction, a Commiſſion and Inſtructions by way of inquiſition were iſſued with power to Judg *Jones*, Sir *Henry Spiller*, &c. to examine the proceedings of the *Virginia* and Sommer-Iſlands Company, as eſpecially of the E. of *Southampton*, and Sir E. *Sandys*, which howſoever ſtrictly and ſtrangely carried [as when a Noble perſon asked the Judge, how he that was ſworn to the laws, durſt own proceedings in that nature, his anſwer was openly, *There was one law of the land, but another law of the Kings Commiſſions*] yet many days and weeks of the inquiſition or perſecution diſcovered no unworthineſſe againſt them, or any other of their conſorts. After this the Councell, Company, Adventurers and Planters for *Virginia*, conceiving their eſtate and condition grown more hopefull, having paſt through the fire of ſuch ſeverall rigorous inquiſitions, and the undertakers having farre engaged therein, a great riſe of confidence and aſſurance appeared generally, as a renewing incouragement. But their ſedulity and fervency was ſuddenly quaſht by a *Quo Warranto* brought in the Kings Bench againſt their Patent. And notwithſtanding it was more then preſumed by ſome, that the moſt rightfull conteſt or waging in a legal way would be fruitleſſe, yet the Company by vote and order thereupon entertained counſell of the beſt Lawyers they could get, and reſolved to ſpend the remaining part of their ſtock and caſh to plead their cauſe to a due iſſue; when alſo ſome good number of unknown perſons ſent in mony, plate, and jewels, to animate and aſſiſt ſo juſt a defence as this Companies right and intereſt, whilſt many could not but conceive and fear the example might be moſt pernicious in other caſes. Yet nevertheleſs before the end of the ſame term a judgment was declared by the Lord Chief Juſtice *Ley* againſt the Company and their Charter, only upon a failer, or miſtake in pleading. Which deſtroyed the hopes of all that lookt in a juſt & righteous way towards that pious and publick work of Plantations. What was after proſecuted by force of the Kings Commiſſions may appear by others, who have thought fit to embrace hope under ſuch conſtitutions.

Through the calamity of the forementioned ſentence, very many honeſt and worthy perſons declining to act under the Kings

emmiſſ6-laws, ſurceaſed from their exemplary induſtry towards Plantations; only the Company of *Bermudas* dependent and derived by particular purchaſe, and for valuable conſideration from the *Virginia* Company, with confirmation by ſpeciall Charter under the great Seal, perſiſted in greater hope and confidence by reaſon their chief undertakers were Earls, Lords, and others of quality, but moſt of them failing in ſhort time, either by complyance or neglect, the care of this Plantation fell into the hands of ſome Members of the Company, leſſe conſiderable, as to Court-intereſt and qualification, not without diſcouragement in the generall; which was the more diſperſed by divers ſuggeſtions, as that thoſe Iſlands had been declined or forſaken by the *Spaniards*, becauſe they had found the place to bee only a ſhell or ſhoale of rocks, that had contracted a ſmall thickneſſe of earth by the falling of leaves from the trees, and hearbs growing up between the rocks; which a ſhort time would wear out, and quickly diſcover the folly of thoſe that pretended to plant upon that ſoil; and that if any further thought ſhould be to fortifie thereon, or have ſhipping there, in probability to offend or interrupt the *Spaniards* intereſt or trading in thoſe parts, their power in the *Weſt-Indies*, would be ſure to ruin all that the *Engliſh* had effected by whatſoever charge of any particular Company, unleſs the King would undertake to back them with his power, whereunto hee ſeemed utterly averſe. Nevertheleſſe, by the inceſſant good indeavours of ſome few worthy Patriots, ſeaſonably aſſiſted by Sir *John Danvers*, and others, upholding and encouraging them from time to time, a competent number of the owners of ſeverall ſhares of land, ſtill remained well affected to maintain the Companies and every mans juſt intereſt. Who by chooſing perſons of eminency to bear the name of Governours of their Company, that were willing to appear for their ſupport, and by driving an annuall ſmall trade of Tobacco, &c. held on the regular government of the Company here, and at the Iſlands, through various interruption, in hope of ſuch fairer times as might afford opportunity for higheſt thoughts of advantage to the undertakers, in which caſe though almoſt languiſhing they may not deſpair of ſome good iſſue of their beſt deſires.

It may not be unfit in this place to call to mind ſome ſpeciall acts

acts of Sir *John Danvers*, wherein he took opportunity faithfully and kindly to serve his worthy friends. One whereof was this, That shortly after the judgment against the *Virginia* Company, one Mr. *Collingwood* came unto him, recounting his acknowledgement of great obligations for recommending him to the place of Secretary to the *Virginia* Company, which was growing every day more valuable, in case it had been happily continued: and at the same time acquainted him, that three Merchant men, one after another had been with him at his house, commending his parts and abilities for imployment, and much pittying his case to be now destitute of means for the maintenance of him and his family, but concluding in a subtil & soothing way, that as he might perceive the Kings displeasure against the E. of *Southampton*, and Sir E. *Sandys*, so would he gain imployment and great benefit to himself for all the days of his life, by saying or discovering ought of their transactions, or otherwise, that should bring any ill reflection upon their persons. When his answer was, That he knew nothing but honor and justice in their ways, nor upon any terms would bee drawn to such unthankfulnesse, as to offer the least matter against them. It is true (said he) they mentioned nothing relating to your self (which he thought was forborn in regard of the particular relation and obligation he had to him.) Nor could Mr. *Collingwood* think it possible openly to detect and convince those Merchants of this wickedness, because they came singly unto him, and by the same knavery would deny their attempts, but that this only was to be taken as a caution against such kind of base insinuation. Sir *John Danvers* asking further, where there was any of relation to those affairs that might be tempted to such villany: he answered, there was an indigent person, whom he had made use of to write and make entries for his assistance, whose hand-writing and intelligent apprehension had caused him to be sent for divers times to *Southampton* house, and imployed in dictates by that Earl and Sir *Ed. Sandys*, and he being of unsetled or loose life, might possibly be drawn to serve the turns of Malevolents, &c. Sir *J. Danvers* took speedy course to ingage him for a long time, most whiles lockt up in a Chamber, til he had fairly copyed the Leiger Court books of all the main transactions of the Company for *Virginia*, accordingly attested for true copies, and then encouraging him into the

countrey to see his friends, giving him a part of reward for his pains, & obliging him to come to him again for the remainder, by which means he kept him wholly out of the way, and from temptation. And assoon after as he could speak with my Lord of *Southampton*, carryed him the said authenticall copies, declaring the information of *Collingwood*, and that having sometimes heard of a great governing court Lady, who was desirous to dispossess a semal Heir that had married a young Gentleman, as to make her rather a wife to a creature or attendant of her owne, and after working somewhat in diverting their affections each from other, a legall prosecution was had to disprove the marriage, which notwithstanding was affirmed by all sorts of circumstance & witnesses, yet by corrupting a Register, who in his Entries put a negative for an affirmative, He that was Judge of the cause *secundum allegata & probata* expressed on the Registry, declared a nullity of the former marriage, whereby the heir was remarried to a second person. This said Sir *John Danvers* gave him to consider, how the malice against the Earl, &c. failing in all other inventions, might possibly in like manner corrupt the records of the *Virginia* Company, getting them, as they did not long after into their custody and power. Wherefore he presented his Lordship with those true copies to be alwaies ready for justification. The Earl was so affected therewith that he took Sir *J. Danvers* into his arms with very great thankfulnesse, saying, Who could have thought of such a friendship but *Charles Danvers* his brother, who was the truest friend that ever man had? and thereupon calling his kinsman Mr. *Wriothsley* chiefly entrusted by him, declared the whole discourse, and in conclusion said, Let those books bee carryed, and safely kept at my house at *Tichfield*, they are the evidence of my honour, and I value them more then the evidence of my lands.

Sir *J. Danvers* stil applying his greatest care and interest for the advantage of his friends; finding Mr. *Will. Carr* in some degree of honour with the King, after his kinsman the E. of *Somerset* was set aside, and falling into discourse with him concerning the great worth and parts of Sir *Edwin Sandys*, whose kinswoman hee had married, and therefore might be presumed the more ready to serve him; Sir *J. Danvers* put him in mind of the Kings great displeasure against that Noble Knight, and desired him at some seasonable time

time to enquire of the King, what might bee the ground of his diſtaſt and hatred againſt him: to whom the King gave this anſwer, that he knew Sir *Ed. Sandys* to be a man of exorbitant Ambition, upon the eſteem he had of his own abilities, and that becauſe by his inceſſant importunity he could not prevail to be made Secretary of State he had uſed his utmoſt endeavour to croſs the Kings beſt intentions both generall and particular; and this conſidered, the King ſaid, he could not think well of any that would hold friendſhip with him. Mr. *Carr* communicating this to Sir *J. Danvers*, he told him, there was but one tryall more to be made, that ſince poſſibly, according to the uſuall ſtratagems practiſed in Court, ſome might have unſeaſonably importuned the King in his behalf, and under the pretence of friendſhip done him ſome great prejudice in incenſing the Kings hatred againſt him, he would be pleaſed to venture ſo far, as to preſſe the King to know who they were that ſollicited his Majeſty for him, without his concurrence in a buſineſſe that had brought ſo much of his diſpleaſure upon him. Which Mr. *Carr* as nobly undertook, when the King was fain to take on him the whole matter and circumſtance, ſaying, *Sandys* was too crafty to put his own ambitious deſign into any other hand, or move it otherwiſe then by his own mouth, from whom he had received ſuch encroaching importunities as had utterly deſtroyed any intereſt hee might ever expect in his good opinion: and ſo the King fell off in ſo great a fury, and with ſuch imprecations from Mr. *Carr*, that hee meeting with Sir *J. Danvers* bewailed the caſe with a very great doubtfulneſſe what to think, moving queſtions about the integrity of Sir *Edw. Sandys*, which had been ſo much declared and beleeved. and ſo Sir *J. Danvers* and Mr. *Carr* parted, much wondring at this.

Not long after the Court being removed to *Greenwich*, Sir *Edw. Sandys* having ſome buſineſſe with my Lord Privy-Seale, repaired thither, and being eſpyed by Sir *J. Danvers* neer to the Privy-chamber, who went to ſalute him, he demanded what room that was ſo full of company, and Sir *J. Danvers* telling him it was the Kings Privy-chamber, where many ſtaid to ſee the King at dinner, he ſaid he would fain ſee the King too, ſo as the King might not ſee him, becauſe (as he ſaid) he had underſtood by his beſt friends, the Kings impatience would wrong him ſhould hee come neer him.

him. Whereupon Sir *John Danvers* told him he would warrant to ſtand ſo before him in the throng that he might have full view of the King without being diſcovered by him; which was accordingly performed for about a quarter of an hour, and ſo both retired out of that room. And afterwards Sir *Edwin Sandys* wondring that the King was ſo much altered in body and countenance ſince he had ſeen him laſt, which was when he came firſt out of *Scotland*, where he was with him. Is it poſſible, ſaid Sir *John Danvers*, (thinking of the paſſage Mr. *Carr* had told him) that you having been ſo much in Parliament, and about *London*, ſhould never have ſeen the King in ſo long a time? it ſeems almoſt paſt beleef. Sir *Edwin* aſſuredly affirmed it, adding that from ſome apprehenſion given the King from his being in *Scotland*, when he had diſcourſe with him, but of nothing that might give any offence, he had been warned by entire friends, and had obſerved by many paſſages in his owne particular, that it would neither be fit nor ſafe for him to come in his ſight. The ſame day towards evening Sir *John Danvers* meeting with Mr. *Carr*, told him of this encounter in matter and circumſtance, who lifting up his hands and eyes, ſaid, *Now God bleſſe all good men, for my Maſter is a very* ——. All which endeavour with Mr. *Carr*'s leave was made known to Sir *Edwin*, who doubtleſſe made a right uſe of this diſcovery.

Theſe inſtances, with others of like nature, too large to be remembred here, confirm the obſervation of thoſe two worthy Gen. Mr. *John* and *Nicholas Farrars*, the one a Merchant of known honeſty, and the other eminent in all kind of learning, and true pietty, (who with their moſt vertuous Mother deſerve an honorable memory for their deſerts, by laying out a good part of their plentifull fortune in piouſly advancing the undertaking for the *Virginia* and *Bermudas* Plantation). That the Earl of *Southampton* was a noble perſon, of true honour and impartiall juſtice. Sir *Edwin Sandys*, a man of great worth, learning, and knowledg, but Sir *John Danvers* of a ſingle entire heart, and firm in friendſhip.

POSTSCRIPT.

I Deſire my Couſen *Will. Woodnoth* to offer this ſeaſonably according to the communication had thereof between us; and if in the mean time he can get to view the Court-books of the *Virginia* Company, and the Orders of the Councel Bord, he ſhal doe well to add the yeer of our Lord in the Margent at every main Tranſaction. *A. W.*

FINIS.